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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING JULY 9, 1981

FOR ADDRESSEE POSTS' INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING
ARE EXCERPTS FROM TODAY'S PRESS BRIEFING. SPOKESMAN WAS
ALAN ROHBERG.

I WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS
RESPONDED TO APPEALS FROM INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ORGANIZATI-
ONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN WITH AN ADDITIONAL
COMMITMENT OF 21 MILLION DOLLARS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSIST-
ANCE TO AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN.
THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN HAVE GENEROUSLY
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RECEIVED AND ASSISTED THE AFGHANS. AN ONGOING INTERNATION-
AL RELIEF PROGRAM SUPPORTS PAKISTAN'S EFFORTS IN AIDING
THE WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING REFUGEE POPULATION, NOW
ESTIMATED TO NUMBER ABOUT 2 MILLION REFUGEES.

TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR AFGHAN RELIEF IN
FISCAL YEAR 1981 ARE EXPECTED TO REACH 93 MILLION DOLLARS.
IN FY 1980 THE U.S. GOVERNMENT GAVE 44 MILLION TO ASSIST
AFGHAN REFUGEES.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING FOR US ON THE AWACS PROPOSAL?
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ON THE TIMING? IS THERE ANY CHANGE?

A. THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION ON THE AWACS. THERE IS NO TIMETABLE. THERE HASN'T BEEN A TIMETABLE. WE ARE CONTINUING TO CONSULT WITH THE CONGRESS ON THIS, AND WHEN THERE IS A DECISION, WE WILL LET YOU KNOW. BUT THERE IS NOTHING.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY INFORMATION ON THE KIDNAPPING OF TWO SAUDI CHILDREN FROM KUWAIT BY AN AMERICAN CITIZEN WHO WAS MARRIED TO A SAUDI?

A. WHAT I HAVE IS THAT AMBASSADOR DICKMAN MET ON JULY 7 WITH THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO RAISED WITH THE AMBASSADOR A CONSULAR CASE INVOLVING THE EXIT FROM KUWAIT LAST MONTH OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN AND HER TWO CHILDREN.

THE FACTS OF THE INCIDENT AS SUBSEQUENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY ARE INACCURATE IN SEVERAL RESPECTS. AND THE EMBASSY IN KUWAIT HAS CONVEYED TO THE KUWAITI AUTHORITIES ORALLY WHAT TRANSPIRED.

A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INDICATES THAT THE AMERICAN CONSULAR OFFICER'S ACTIONS IN THIS CASE WERE LEGAL AND PROPER. FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT THE CASE AND THE IDENTITY

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OF THE AMERICANS INVOLVED CANNOT BE RELEASED BECAUSE OF THE PRIVACY ACT.

Q. CAN THE STATE DEPARTMENT CONFIRM THAT 40 OR MORE PERSONS OF BAHAI FAITH WERE EXECUTED IN IRAN DURING THE PAST YEAR, AND HAVE THERE BEEN ANY EXPRESSIONS OF U.S. CONCERN ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. LET ME TAKE THE QUESTION.

Q. THERE'S A REPORT IN THE WALL STREET JOURNAL THIS MORNING THAT FOUR F-16S, JETS THAT WERE SUSPENDED FOR DELIVERY TO ISRAEL, WILL NOW BE SENT. IT'S ATTRIBUTED TO HIGH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND THE SAME PAPER HAS GOT AN INTERVIEW ON THE RECORD WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THAT?

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A. IT'S INACCURATE. THERE HAS BEEN NO SUCH DECISION MADE. THE REVIEW HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED.

Q. RELATING TO PAKISTAN, A PAKISTANI MILITARY DELEGATION WAS TO HAVE COME BY THE END OF JUNE TO PURSUE WHATEVER WAS BEING PURSUED THAT YEAR AND IT HASN'T COME. WHY? HAS IT ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE TURKISH CONNECTION?

A. LET ME LOOK INTO THE QUESTION AND I'LL SEE IF WE HAVE ANYTHING ON THE PAKISTAN MILITARY DELEGATION, IF WE HAVE SOMETHING.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE REVIEW OF THE F-16S THAT ARE UNDER SUSPENSION FOR THE ISRAELI RAID?

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AND, REGARDING THE ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE AFGHAN REFUGEE AID, WERE THERE ANY CONSULTATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION REGARDING THAT AID?

A. ON THE AFGHAN AID I SIMPLY DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THOSE QUESTIONS.

WHAT WAS THE OTHER, THE STATUS OF THE REVIEW? IT IS UNDER WAY, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHEN.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER ABOUT THE HABIB BUSINESS IN BEIRUT?

A. NO, OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT HE IS GONE AND HE IS THERE, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FOR YOU ON THAT.
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